

## Step Into Scripture: Signposts

### Week 1: Right in Their Own Eyes

This week's study introduces the book of Judges and walks through the repeated sin cycle that defines Israel's spiritual condition: rebellion, oppression, repentance, deliverance, peace—and repeat. The lesson reviews how partial obedience led Israel into covenantal compromise and spiritual decay, despite God's clear commands. It highlights the archaeological and biblical evidence of the Canaanite culture God judged, and how Israel slowly became indistinguishable from the people they were meant to replace. We will look at the lives of several judges—Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson—and how each served as a signpost pointing to our need for a perfect Deliverer. The conclusion calls us to self-examination and wholehearted obedience as we reflect on the sobering end of the book and our own cycles of compromise.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What is the significance of the sin cycle in Judges, and how do we see similar patterns in our own lives?
  - \* Consider areas where you tend to drift from God when things are comfortable.
  - \* What steps can help you break the cycle before you hit crisis again?
2. How did Israel's partial obedience in driving out the Canaanites lead to their spiritual downfall?
  - \* Discuss how partial obedience still results in disobedience.
  - \* Are there areas in your life where you're settling for 'good enough' instead of full surrender?
3. What do the lives of the judges teach us about God's choice of leaders?
  - \* Reflect on how God used unexpected people like Ehud, Deborah, and Shamgar.
  - \* What might God want to do through your perceived weaknesses?
4. What stands out to you from Gideon's story—both his growth in faith and his failure to finish well?
  - \* Why do you think spiritual success can sometimes lead to pride or complacency?
  - \* How can we guard our hearts in seasons of strength?
5. Jephthah and Samson reveal how cultural compromise and personal pride can corrupt even those God uses.
  - \* How can you tell if your view of God or faith has been shaped more by culture than by Scripture?
  - \* What does true repentance look like when we recognize that influence?

### Prayer:

- \* Ask God to expose and break any sin cycles still active in your life.
- \* Pray for the courage to fully obey where you've been partially obedient.
- \* Thank God for His patience, mercy, and the promise of a perfect Deliverer in Jesus.
- \* Lift up group members struggling with repeated patterns and ask for true freedom through Christ.